

First Regular Session 114th General Assembly (2005)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2004 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE ENROLLED ACT No. 498

AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning civil procedure and local government.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. IC 34-28-5-1, AS AMENDED BY HEA 1113-2005, SECTION 24, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2005]: Sec. 1. (a) An action to enforce a statute defining an infraction shall be brought in the name of the state of Indiana by the prosecuting attorney for the judicial circuit in which the infraction allegedly took place. However, if the infraction allegedly took place on a public highway (as defined in IC 9-25-2-4) that runs on and along a common boundary shared by two (2) or more judicial circuits, a prosecuting attorney for any judicial circuit sharing the common boundary may bring the action.

(b) An action to enforce an ordinance shall be brought in the name of the municipal corporation. The municipal corporation need not prove that it or the ordinance is valid unless validity is controverted by affidavit.

(c) Actions under this chapter (or IC 34-4-32 before its repeal):

- (1) shall be conducted in accordance with the Indiana Rules of Trial Procedure; and
- (2) must be brought within two (2) years after the alleged conduct or violation occurred.

(d) The plaintiff in an action under this chapter must prove the commission of an infraction or ordinance violation by a preponderance

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of the evidence.

(e) The complaint and summons described in IC 9-30-3-6 may be used for any infraction or ordinance violation.

(f) This subsection does not apply to an offense or violation under IC 9-24-6 involving the operation of a commercial motor vehicle. The prosecuting attorney or the attorney for a municipal corporation may establish a deferral program for deferring actions brought under this section. Actions may be deferred under this section if:

- (1) the defendant in the action agrees to conditions of a deferral program offered by the prosecuting attorney or the attorney for a municipal corporation;
- (2) the defendant in the action agrees to pay to the clerk of the court an initial user's fee and monthly user's fee set by the prosecuting attorney or the attorney for the municipal corporation in accordance with IC 33-37-4-2(e);
- (3) the terms of the agreement are recorded in an instrument signed by the defendant and the prosecuting attorney or the attorney for the municipal corporation;
- (4) the defendant in the action agrees to pay a fee of seventy dollars (\$70) to the clerk of court if the action involves a moving traffic offense (as defined in IC 9-13-2-110);
- (5) the agreement is filed in the court in which the action is brought; and
- (6) if the deferral program is offered by the prosecuting attorney, the prosecuting attorney electronically transmits information required by the prosecuting attorneys council concerning the withheld prosecution to the prosecuting attorneys council, in a manner and format designated by the prosecuting attorneys council.

When a defendant complies with the terms of an agreement filed under this subsection (or IC 34-4-32-1(f) before its repeal), the prosecuting attorney or the attorney for the municipal corporation shall request the court to dismiss the action. Upon receipt of a request to dismiss an action under this subsection, the court shall dismiss the action. An action dismissed under this subsection (or IC 34-4-32-1(f) before its repeal) may not be refiled.

(g) If a judgment is entered against a defendant in an action to enforce an ordinance, the defendant may perform community restitution or service (as defined in IC 35-41-1-4.6) instead of paying a monetary judgment for the ordinance violation as described in section 4(e) of this chapter if:

- (1) the:**

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- (A) defendant; and
 - (B) attorney for the municipal corporation;
- agree to the defendant's performance of community restitution or service instead of the payment of a monetary judgment;
- (2) the terms of the agreement described in subdivision (1):
 - (A) include the amount of the judgment the municipal corporation requests that the defendant pay under section 4(e) of this chapter for the ordinance violation if the defendant fails to perform the community restitution or service provided for in the agreement as approved by the court; and
 - (B) are recorded in a written instrument signed by the defendant and the attorney for the municipal corporation;
 - (3) the agreement is filed in the court where the judgment was entered; and
 - (4) the court approves the agreement.

If a defendant fails to comply with an agreement approved by a court under this subsection, the court shall require the defendant to pay up to the amount of the judgment requested in the action under section 4(e) of this chapter as if the defendant had not entered into an agreement under this subsection.

SECTION 2. IC 34-28-5-4 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2005]: Sec. 4. (a) A judgment of up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) may be entered for a violation constituting a Class A infraction.

(b) A judgment of up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) may be entered for a violation constituting a Class B infraction.

(c) A judgment of up to five hundred dollars (\$500) may be entered for a violation constituting a Class C infraction.

(d) A judgment of up to twenty-five dollars (\$25) may be entered for a violation constituting a Class D infraction.

(e) **Subject to section 1(g) of this chapter**, a judgment:

- (1) up to the amount requested in the complaint; and
- (2) not exceeding any limitation under IC 36-1-3-8;

may be entered for an ordinance violation.

SECTION 3. IC 34-28-5-8 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2005]: Sec. 8. The violations clerk or deputy violations clerk shall:

- (1) accept:
 - (A) written appearances;
 - (B) waivers of trial;

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- (C) admissions of violation;
- (D) declarations of nolo contendere for moving traffic violations;
- (E) payments of judgments (including costs) in traffic violation cases; ~~and~~

(F) deferral agreements made under section 1(f) of this chapter (or IC 34-4-32-1(f) before its repeal) and deferral program fees prescribed under IC 33-37-4-2(e); **and**

(G) community restitution or service agreements made under section 1(g) of this chapter;

(2) issue receipts and account for any judgments (including costs) collected; and

(3) pay the judgments (including costs) collected to the appropriate unit of government as provided by law.

SECTION 4. IC 36-1-3-8 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2005]: Sec. 8. (a) Subject to subsection (b), a unit does not have the following:

- (1) The power to condition or limit its civil liability, except as expressly granted by statute.
- (2) The power to prescribe the law governing civil actions between private persons.
- (3) The power to impose duties on another political subdivision, except as expressly granted by statute.
- (4) The power to impose a tax, except as expressly granted by statute.
- (5) The power to impose a license fee greater than that reasonably related to the administrative cost of exercising a regulatory power.
- (6) The power to impose a service charge or user fee greater than that reasonably related to reasonable and just rates and charges for services.
- (7) The power to regulate conduct that is regulated by a state agency, except as expressly granted by statute.
- (8) The power to prescribe a penalty for conduct constituting a crime or infraction under statute.
- (9) The power to prescribe a penalty of imprisonment for an ordinance violation.
- (10) The power to prescribe a penalty of a fine as follows:
 - (A) More than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for the violation of an ordinance or a regulation concerning air emissions adopted by a county that has received approval to establish an air program under IC 13-17-12-6.
 - (B) **For a violation of any other ordinance:**

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(i) more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) for any other a **first violation of the ordinance; and**
 (ii) **except as provided in subsection (c), more than seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500) for a second or subsequent violation of the ordinance.**

(11) The power to invest money, except as expressly granted by statute.

(12) The power to order or conduct an election, except as expressly granted by statute.

(b) A township does not have the following, except as expressly granted by statute:

(1) The power to require a license or impose a license fee.

(2) The power to impose a service charge or user fee.

(3) The power to prescribe a penalty.

(c) Subsection (a)(10)(B)(ii) does not apply to the violation of an ordinance that regulates traffic or parking.

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President of the Senate

President Pro Tempore

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Approved: _____

Governor of the State of Indiana

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